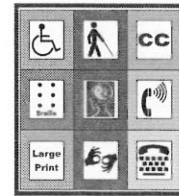




Office on the Disabled
City of Saint Louis
Advisory Council Meeting
Room 305, City Hall
February 27, 2012



Minutes

Gina Hilberry as Council Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 A.M. Members present included Gina Hilberry, Mike Keller, Kerri Morgan, William Sheldon, Jane Thomas, and Linda Baker. David Newburger and Kim Kreitner of the Office on the Disabled were also present. Absent were Willie Kimbrough and Wendy Sullivan.

Minutes from the February 27th meeting were approved and adopted.

The next meeting for the advisory council is scheduled on April 30th at 9:00 A.M. in Room 305.

Playground Studies

Ms. Kreitner explained to the Advisory Council that Jessica Dashner of Washington University has requested that her Occupational Therapy students be able to complete a playground study for the Office on the Disabled as they have done in past years to assess them for ADA accessibility. Ms. Kreitner has located eighteen city playgrounds that have yet to be evaluated and supplied the OT students with those addresses. There is a possibility that the students will make a presentation to the Advisory Council once their assessments are complete.

Below is Jessica Dashner's synopsis of the playground project for her students:

City of St. Louis Playground Assessments-

This group will conduct assessments and make recommendations to improve the accessibility of playgrounds in the city of St. Louis. The Office on the Disabled in St. Louis is requesting data on up to 18 playgrounds in the city. This group will be providing the Office on the Disabled with valuable information that can improve the accessibility of playgrounds to be used by individuals with disabilities and their families.

Survey of Sidewalks

Ms. Kreitner informed the advisory council that Washington University Occupational Therapy students are also asking to assess the remaining sidewalk addresses for cross slopes and concrete condition.

Below is Jessica Dashner's synopsis of the sidewalk project for her students:

City of St. Louis Sidewalk and Curb Cut Accessibility-

The Office on the Disabled assists the City's being in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The Office also assists the City in making it one that welcomes people of all disabilities as full and equal participants in the community. The city has a listing of permits from the St. Louis Streets Department for newly poured sections of sidewalk in the city. They want the cross slope measurements of the sidewalks and carriage walks (curb cuts) from these addresses and photos/commentary on conditions of concrete to accompany them. This group will conduct assessments and will be providing the city with valuable information related to community accessibility for people with disabilities.

Ms. Hilberry can also provide more addresses of new concrete for the occupational therapy students if Mr. Kimbrough has already done a report on the addresses sent to Jessica Dashner's students.

Examples of Poor Sidewalk Design

Ms. Hilberry showed the council photos taken at three locations that show a curb at the end of a crosswalk which is no crosswalk at all. All these locations have been poured within the year. Ms. Hilberry is also looking at Ward One intersections to compare them to the initial intersection study done by St. Louis city building inspectors. There were concerns because the initial study showed so few curb cuts within Ward One. So far, she is not seeing many issues with the curb ramps she is driving past.

Ms. Morgan inquired as to how to best show examples to the council of poorly poured concrete that she has located. Mr. Newburger requested that she take note of the address and take photos of the property and submit them to the council.

Ordinance Modification

Discussion on ordinance modification centered on Ordinance 17.76.020 (Residential disabled parking space permit) to start by discussing the definition of disability. Commissioner Newburger read through the list of standards for residential parking permits. It was discussed that the list felt choppy from a

language and legislative perspective and it also does not address functional impairments. Ms. Hilberry recommended taking out the list and replacing it with “a person who has been issued a state issued permanent disability placard or license plates”. Ms. Baker recommends that the ADA definition of disability could be used to define the standard. Ms. Hilberry recommended that when this is rewritten that it state that they have to have the placard or the plate and that will get us away from trying to police this.

Commissioner Newburger raised the issue of parking meter exemptions. Since the ordinance says that the exemption is for people who do not have the dexterity to put coins in the meters this cut out about 1000 people who previously had the exemption when the rules were much more lax. Now the Commissioner is in the position of having to physically assess people to ensure that they do indeed qualify for the exemption. He also noted that we are now down to approximately 30-40 people in the program and this is typically due to significant arthritis or other disabilities that truly prevent coin manipulation. There are times when Commissioner Newburger meets with people in order to determine whether or not they qualify for this program. Ms. Hilberry encourages the use of a letter but is unsure as to how to rewrite the ordinance to reflect this change. Commissioner Newburger feels that it is beneficial to be allowed to continue to assess applicants on a case by case basis. The Commissioner also encourages that the fundamental meaning stays the same in the ordinance but believes that the language could be cleaned up and encourages feedback on this from the council members. Commissioner Newburger will start working on the new draft of this ordinance shortly.

Commissioner Newburger read the ordinance on removal of permit signs and explained how the Office on the Disabled cleans up the program every two years when new stickers are issued. The nuisance property section of the ordinance was explained in-depth and Commissioner Newburger proposed that the space holders sign only be removed if the property became considered a nuisance because of the actions of the placard holder. Example—we will not remove the sign if the property was considered a nuisance because of the children of the sign holder who is disabled.

Ms. Hilberry brought up Ordinance 3.36 because of language issues within the ordinance and wanting to make sure that the advisory council is under the correct department. Commissioner Newburger asked if the council should consider adding anything to this ordinance about enforcing the Americans with Disabilities Act since this ordinance was written prior to the ADA being created. Commissioner Newburger gave the example of a school district wanting to build a high school daycare center that did not have an accessible pathway into the actual school from the daycare. He and the building division banded together and decided that they would not approve any permits until they were in compliance with the ADA. This brings up the question—What is the Commissioner’s authority in saying that based on the ordinance? Ms. Hilberry

brought up that the Commissioner should be empowered to bring up violations to the attention of the Justice Department. She also feels that the Commissioner should have the power to review certain permits before they can be approved. Commissioner Newburger feels that it should cover all public rights of way issues and big buildings. Ms. Hilberry expanded that this should also include city contracts, public schools, and Title II facilities. Commissioner Newburger proposed the ability to put stop orders on projects and that he be notified about projects over ten million dollars. The council agrees but it was also brought up that public rights of way need to be kept in because they will not meet the ten million dollar standard.

Pedestrian Safety

Commissioner Newburger informed council members that there is a study going on by the Federal Highway Administration. They are studying injuries of pedestrians around the state and are collecting data from us and if we have any anecdotal information that should be added they would like to have that. Ms. Thomas offered up information on one of her co-workers who was injured. Commissioner Newburger has asked Ms. Thomas to send him detailed information on this by email. Commissioner Newburger pointed out the memo on this included in the packet. He has requested that council members provide any feedback they may have on the subject to him. This comes to a proposed ordinance that an alderman has raised on pedestrian pathways in parking lots. Commissioner Newburger informed Ms. Thomas that he received a response from Beezy Bentzen about the fact that in Laclede's Landing they are talking about remodeling sidewalks and they have a proposal to make the curb not just a right angle curb but instead it would come up three inches above the street and then it would angle at 45 degrees and come up the rest of the three inches and then it would be at the sidewalk. Commissioner Newburger asked Ms. Thomas and her supervisor what they thought about this and Ms. Thomas responded that they found it worrying because a person using a cane would not know that this is not a curb ramp. Mr. Keller also brought up that people with knee issues would have great difficulty with this configuration. Commissioner Newburger will send this information back to the designers stating that this is on the advice of the advisory council.

Commissioner Newburger asked for comment on the proposed ordinance asking for highly delineated markings in parking lots. This would be like a sidewalk raised six inches in the open space. The paperwork on this proposal is included in the packet given at the meeting. Ms. Hilberry took issue with the first sentence limiting this to "one". Commissioner Newburger brought up the Galleria Mall because the route from the train station to the mall lacks an accessible pathway. They have one small painted crosswalk. Ms. Hilberry brought up that it should be worded in such a way to show that this would be the same pathway as used by the majority of pedestrians. Commissioner Newburger would like an


articulated standard so we are not doing too many or too few. Ms. Hilberry feels that this should be evaluated on various locations. Commissioner Newburger will draft this and send it back out for comments from the advisory council.

New Business

There was not enough time to discuss modifying the ordinance centered on the name of the office and council—continue this topic in the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Kerri Morgan, Secretary